CARE - AUG. SEPT. & OCT.

We will just ramble along and jot down things as they come to mind. If you get confused just pick out the parts you need and skip the rest.

Time to start thinking about cold weather. Get your heaters ready for later use. Fill the fuel tank or drum. If you mulch for the cold get your material lined up. At least know where it is available. It might pay to check with your garden supply house. There are some new products on the market for use in cold protection.

Don't forget to start to harden your plants. Cut down on the nitrogen in your fertilizer program. The nitrogen is the first number in the set of three on your fertilizer tag.

If your plants do not look so good you may need to give them some trace elements or minor elements. The garden supply man can tell you what is good. Stick to the label on the container. The plants do not need much - the name is "trace".

Watch out for bugs, insects, pests or whatever choice names you have for them. Remember that the plant should be in a good moist condition before applying any spray. You can use Cygon on hibiscus but be VERY careful. Would be well to use it a wee bit weaker than the label says. It will knock off leaves if used too strong.

I know it is hot and a lot easier to sit in the shade but keep an eye pealed for scale and fungus. They grow good these hot, moist days. Here again you should ask the garden supply man for the best dust or spray to use in your area.

You can still plant out that new plant. Just keep in mind that it is much better to plant a 50¢ plant in a $5.00 hole than a $5.00 plant in a 50¢ hole. Dig your hole bigger and deeper than the can or pail that you bought your plant in. If your soil is very sandy add some humus to part of the sand and keep it

ready to put back in the hole when you are ready to set the plant. Put some of the new mix in the bottom to raise the plant to the same height it was in the can, then place the remainder of the mix around the plant, leaving a saucer to hold water and fertilizer where you want it. You can use prepared sheep manure or well rotted dairy manure for your humus. Sludge can be used. Peat moss is good but there is little food value there. Don't use a lot of high powered fertilizer at the time of planting. Keep the soil well moistened, but not flooded.

Hibiscus like a pH of 6 or 6.5. Just slightly acid. It would be a good idea to have your soil test made before planting so that it can be corrected when building that $5.00 hole.

Even though I have seen a hibiscus growing in a five gallon pail with no drainage holes in the darned thing and water to the brim, it is not advisable to try this. Hibiscus seem to like well drained soil. Plenty of water but not to stand in soggy ground.

Mulch in this hot weather is good. It keeps the moisture in the ground and the roots cool. Should use some chlordane for ant protection.

Keep your weeds under control. I sure hate to pay out good money for fertilizer for weeds.

A little fertilizer often is much better than a lot of fertilizer once or twice a year.

Bud drop - - now that is the question. Caused by too much water, too little water, sudden change, need plant food, too much plant food. And some drop just to make you mad.

Don't prune too much now - you cut off bloom.

See you at the shows.

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